

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13 are pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13 are rejected. Various formal objections to the drawings and specification are made. In response, the drawings are amended, including reference numerals and FIG 2, which now shows two offset card slots. New Claims 15-17 are added.

The specification and drawing are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Reference numeral shows the connector (2) of FIG. 1 and of FIG. 2. The slots (68) and (70) are shown offset in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3. Plural cards of different sizes are shown in FIG. 2.

New Claim 15 includes "a carrier connectable with the memory storage device rack, the carrier having rails that slide with respect to the rails of the rack to enable the carrier to slide into the rack and to removably mount the carrier in the rack; and a card device mounted in the carrier having plural offset slots plural card slots for receiving plural cards". Plural offset slots in combination with a removable carrier is also not taught by the cited art.

New Claim 17 recites the inventive carrier as part of a system to enable replacement of the carrier with another carrier holding a hard disk drive, a card device, or other device. This feature is not taught by the cited reference and renders Claim 15 patentable in view of the cited reference.

Rejections under section 103

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable in view of various cited references including Tsai, Sheih, Cheng, Klatt, Darden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,841), and Lwee and Klein.

Tsai (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,216) teaches a fixed mount for a card reader. This device does not removably mount in a rack.

Sheih (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,571) teaches a card device that attaches to a printer port.

Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,568) teaches inserting a fan into a card device of a laptop computer. The card device (card reader), however, is integrated within the laptop computer and is not removable and replaceable. Only the fan (which functions as a card) is removable and replaceable.

Klatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,488) teaches a card reader for reading plural cards that are different sizes. Klatt, however, fails to teach that such a device can be used in a carrier and docking assembly.

Lwee (U.S. Patent No. 5,324,204) teaches a card device that are not offset for different sized cards.

Darden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,841) teaches a carrier and rack, but does not apply this teaching for making a removable device for reading cards of different sizes.

Klein (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,236) teaches a way of assembling computers.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-14 as being obvious to form the Tsai assembly to be insertable along the rails into a docking assembly of the type shown in

Darden. This rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 13 is overcome because offset card slots, as now claimed, are not shown by either reference as would be required to justify a section 103 rejection.

The Examiner also argues that it would be obvious to use a single slot receiver. However, there are a multitude of card configuration for memory, communications and the like. The use of a single card slot would not facilitate a simple way of adapting a hard drive bay for receiving the cards of various configurations. A second carrier would be needed. The use a second carrier just to use a second card of a different type is burdensome and the present invention enables a user to only switch carriers when, for example, a hard disk drive and the carrier of the present invention are alternated.

Offset slots, as claimed, are useful for receiving cards of different sizes. Non-offset slots as shown in the cited are designed for single-sized cards. Further, the cited art does not teach using an offset slot device with a removable carrier as claimed.

CONCLUSION

The limitation of plural offset card slots for receiving plural cards is now claimed.  
This is not taught by the cited reference, nor would it be obvious to include such.  
Accordingly, the present claims distinguish from the cited art. Examiner's ground for rejection is overcome.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Kevin Fortin  
Kevin H. Fortin  
Registration No. 35,140



P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(650) 622-2300

Date: March 27, 2001

RECEIVED  
APR -5 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800